

PORTO RICAN GIRLS

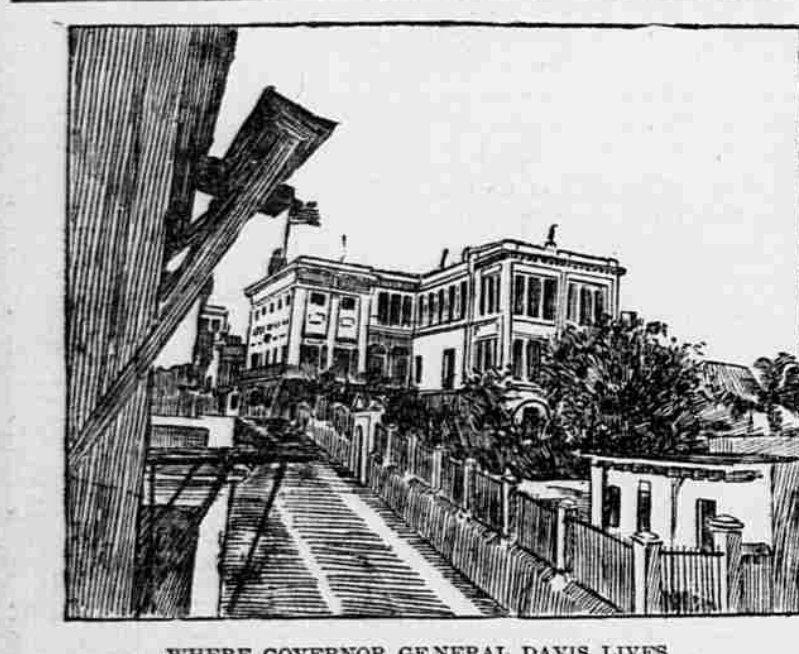
BEAUTIES OF OUR NEW POSSESSIONS
IN THE WEST INDIES.

GREAT BALL AT SAN JUAN

PALACE THAT IS OCCUPIED BY GOV-
ERNOR GENERAL DAVIS.

Porto Rican Houses and Housekeep-
ing—Women's Work and Wages—
Servants at \$4 a Month
and Housemaids at 10
Cents a Day.

(Copyright, 1899, by Frank G. Carpenter.)
SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, July 5.—I saw
a quarter of an acre of pretty girls last
night. They were rich girls, well-dressed
girls, and, by and large, as nice girls as
I have seen this year. The most of them
were whirling about in the mazes of the



WHERE GOVERNOR GENERAL DAVIS LIVES.

tertainment. It would do much to teach
the Porto Rican American ways and to bring
them into accord with us. General Henry
Davis had attended at this ball. It was
this probably because his wife was not
very well.

The entertainment palace is well adapted
to receptions. It is, you know, the home
of the captain general, which came into
our hands through the war. It is an im-
mense building of two stories, having, I
judge, at least two score rooms. It is
now devoted to offices, but there is left
at least as much room as in the White
House, and General Davis has several
magnificent parlors.

Entering the palace, you go in between
two of our soldiers and walk up a wide
staircase, by a stack of rifles, past a mirror
draped with two American flags, to the
second floor. This is the living room. The
palace. Turning to the left, you first en-
ter the reception room, which is as large
as the ordinary parlor, and thence pass
on into the drawing room, which is about
twenty feet high. It is floored with white
and black marble. Its walls are frescoed
with a life and the room is almost
covered with large mirrors.

The drawing room, like the rest of the
palace, is very beautiful. It is the room
the Spanish left it. Uncle Sam bought the
furniture, including the piano, the billiard
table and the carriage stables. The chairs
are of Austrian beechwood, and they are
very comfortable. The room is in the
style of the late 18th century. The walls
are covered with pictures of Spanish
knights in armor on pedestals.

I particularly examined the piano. It
was made in Barcelona, and it is said
that it originally cost \$100.

Beyond the music room is the billiard
room, where the Spanish officials cracked
the ivory balls which are on the table
now. This room has windows looking out
onto the palace gardens, the bay and Mor-
ro Castle. From this room you enter the
alcove, another government building,
which stands on the foundations of a
house in which Ponce de Leon lived several

hundred years ago. The palace itself
was begun in the sixteenth century, although
it was not finished until 1585.

How the Porto Ricans Live.

It seems strange to Americans to see the
parlors and reception rooms on the sec-
ond floor. This is the custom in most of
the towns of Porto Rico. The rich people
of San Juan all live in the second stories
of their houses, the lower floors being given
up to the poor. Out in the country the
houses of the richest farmers have store-
rooms, granaries and stables beneath them,
and you have to go up long steps to get to
the front door. Country houses have no glass
in their windows, but only shutters, which
open and close. It is built with a large
living room in the center and bedrooms
opening into this on each side. There is
often a wing containing a kitchen with a
water closet adjoining it. Bathrooms are
almost unknown and the sanitary condi-
tions of even the best houses are bad.

The furniture is commonly of bentwood,
the chairs being arranged stiffly about a
table. There is often a wicker chair and
some rocking chairs, but no attempts are
made at ornamentation in the way of cosy
upholstered furniture.

The bedrooms are fitted out with iron
beds covered either with canvas or with
spring mattresses. The mattresses are
spread for mattresses. The mattresses are
usually not long enough to allow you to
stretch your body to lie on them without touch-
ing the wires. In my hotel here in San
Juan the springs of the Porto Rican
beds are of iron. If I protect my heels, my
shoulders have to suffer by the sharp wires
between the mattresses and the springs.

Ladies' Aid Society of San Juan.

The Porto Rican ladies are now co-oper-
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navy officers to improve the condition of
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They Are Nice Girls.

Now cast your eye at the faces. Are they
not sweet? They are full of fun, but
refined. They look like nice girls, good girls,
modest and pure, as I doubt not they are.
See how they laugh and chat with their
partners, and how they keep up the dance
throughout the evening. It is only when
dancing that they have the chance of be-
ing alone with their beaux. For according to
Spanish custom when they sit down their
sisters, mothers or aunts, who act as du-
ennas.

Now the dance is over and we can ob-
serve them at rest. What pretty eyes they
have! They are large, black and liquid,
with long lashes and rather heavy brows,
which are accentuated by their pale bru-
nette faces.

Notice how they use their fans. Every
girl has one, and she keeps it always
motion. She fans herself three times and
then with a twist of the wrist throws the
fold of the fan together. Another time
it is open in the opposite way and she
is fanning herself most coquettishly. These
girls could teach us a great deal in fan
language. They carry beautiful fans. Some
are made of sandalwood, some of ivory,
and many are covered with fine lace and
gauze, beautifully embroidered and painted.
The fans here are much more than a fan
by the crowd in the hall. Over there on
the opposite side of the room is one which
seems to have been made for a queen and
which, I venture, never saw Spain. It is
a dainty little thing, and is wielded by
one of the prettiest of the Porto Rican
beauties. It is of silk in the colors of the
American flag, with the red, white and
blue flashes out at every twist of her
wrist. You can see that the better
class of Porto Ricans are very patriotic.
They are glad they are Americans, and
will be good citizens.

Let Our Summer Girls Beware.

As I looked at these pretty Porto Rican
girls I thought of the summer girls who
create among our young men when they
visit the fashionable watering places of
the United States. They will be formid-
able rivals of the American summer girls.
Heretofore many of them have taken their
outings in Europe, but now they are talk-
ing of coming to the United States. They
are taking lessons in English, and already
several of them have found husbands
among our army officers. They are very
attractive, and that they like Yankee
boys better than Porto Ricans, and that they will prefer

American husbands because American
wives have more freedom and better times.
Speaking of customs, our young men will
have a great advantage over the Spanish
beaux. According to the etiquette of Spain
which prevails in Porto Rico, a young man
cannot engage in conversation with his
sweetheart upon the street. He dare not
call upon her expecting to find her alone,
and in case there is another man paying
attention to her he is not supposed to in-
terfere. The Americans will not regard the
rules of Spanish etiquette, and at present
the chances seem to be all in their favor.

Social Life in San Juan.

I was surprised to see so many women
at this ball. I did not think there were so
many pretty girls on the island. It is only
at such times we see the better classes of
Porto Rican women. They seldom go upon
the streets. They do not hang out of the
windows or over the balconies, as the
South American girls do, and in short they
are very exclusive. It is only a few of
them that go out to walk in the plaza
when the military bands play, and you
might see a number in Porto Rico and not
know that it had a "four hundred."

I believe the better-class Porto Ricans
are very friendly toward the Americans.
This feeling has been materially bettered
by the conduct of some of our army offi-
cers, and especially by General Davis. Grant
and his wife. Mrs. Grant is accus-
tomed to entertaining, and during her
stay here she gave receptions and dined
every week. To her receptions the Porto
Ricans were glad to come, and here they
met the wives of the officers of our army
and navy and the officers themselves.
Other Americans who were in San Juan
were invited, and in this way pleasant
relations have been established.

It might pay Uncle Sam to allow our gov-
ernor general at Porto Rico a sum for en-
tertaining.

Where Governor General Davis Lives.

At the base of the proud Olympic range
of snow-capped mountains in this state.
His daughter married Henry J. Collins,
a wealthy merchant, and she is now
Mrs. Collins, formerly of Troy, N. Y., who
is president of the vice president, the president
being the wife of the governor general. It has
offices in the second story of the Governor
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from 7 in the morning until 4 at night are
paid 15 cents a day, including their break-
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You can hire a first-class cook for \$5 to \$7 a month, and
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A washtub is a box made of pine, about a
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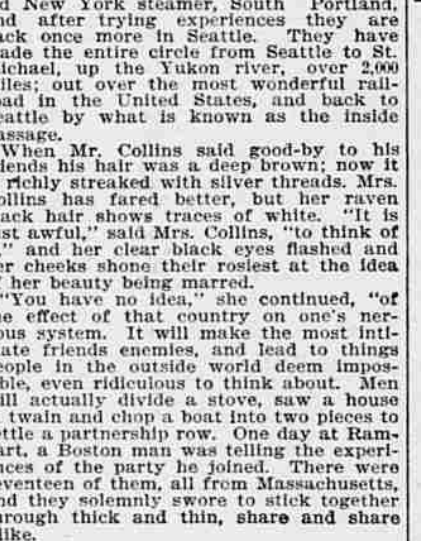
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The Porto Rican ladies are now co-oper-
ating with the wives of the army and
navy officers to improve the condition of
the poor women of Porto Rico. A ladies'
aid society has been organized. This so-
ciety is not sectarian, and it is supported
by voluntary contributions. One of its
members is Mrs. Collins, formerly of
Troy, N. Y., who is president of the
vice president, the president being the wife
of the governor general. It has offices
in the second story of the Governor Gen-
eral's Palace. It holds meetings twice a
week, at which meetings the poor women of
Porto Rico come for aid. They are paid for
making clothes, which are given away to the
poor as they are unable to work. They re-
ceive from 15 to 20 cents for making

WOMAN'S ALASKA LIFE

TOLD BY HANDSOMEST OF HER SEX
IN THE COUNTRY.

Mrs. Harry J. Collins, Formerly of
Troy, N. Y., Writes of Her Ex-
perience in the Land of
Ice and Snow.

Women's Work and Wages.

Speaking of the poorer women, there is
little chance here for a girl to make her
own living. Outside of school teaching or
acting as governess there are no open-
ings whatever. Women are not employed
in the stores, Porto Rico has not yet
this date a female typewriter, and the work
in the postoffice and telegraph offices is
done by men. The women who are em-
ployed in the stores are paid from \$1.00
to \$2.00 a week, and the wages are such,
however, that the American dressmaker
could not live upon them. Sewing women
who come into the house and sew all day
from 7 in the morning until 4 at night are
paid 15 cents a day, including their break-
fast and dinner. You can get a fine dress
made for \$2.00, and a ladies' maid, in-
cluding her breakfast and dinner, for \$1.00.
You can hire a first-class cook for \$5 to \$7 a month, and
a cook will take care of the house and
more than one day's work. Linen is very
cheap here, and the American women who
visit Porto Rico do themselves well with
linen underclothes, getting them for about
one-third the prices they pay at home.

All kinds of services are very cheap, es-
pecially women servants. Maids get from
\$1 to \$2.50 a month, and for this sum they
will do anything from the washing of the
clothes to the cooking of the meals. Some
are very nice, and some are not. Some are
white, and some are colored. Not a few come
from the neighborhood of St. Thomas. Some
speak a little English, and all, as a rule,
are clean and nice looking. Ordinary
servants get from \$1.00 to \$2.00 a month,
or from \$2.00 to \$3.00. You can hire a first-
class cook for \$5 to \$7 a month, and a
cook will take care of the house and more
than one day's work. Linen is very cheap
here, and the American women who visit
Porto Rico do themselves well with linen
underclothes, getting them for about one-
third the prices they pay at home.

Washing and Washwomen.

The cook, however, will not wash and
iron. This, as a rule, is done by profes-
sional washwomen, who carry the clothes
to the streams and wash them in cold
water. There is no such thing as a clothes-
line on the island, and nothing like an
American washboard or washtub. The
clothes are dried on the grass or hung on
cactus bushes or wire fences. They are
sprinkled while drying, and usually come
back heavier than when they were washed.
A washtub is a box made of pine, about a
yard long, half a yard wide and about six
inches deep. The washtub is placed on the
ground, and the woman puts the clothes in
it, dips it in the water, and wrings them
with her hands. Sometimes she wrings the
tub against a stone, so that half of it is in
the water. The clothes are then hung on a
line, and the woman rubs and scrubs to
wash out the dirt.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

ANTI-BAGGAGE SMASHING.

An Invention of a Michigan Man to
Break the Heart of a Bag-
gage Smasher.

George H. Wall, of Cadillac, Mich., has
invented a mechanism for landing bag-
gage. It is in the nature of a pneumatic ele-<